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Political Activities of Guerrilla Warfare

People's Revolution and Guerrilla Warfare,
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PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION AND GUERRILLA WARFARE

CHAPTER X.

Political Activities of Guerilla Warfare

The basic nature of guerilla warfare is that of political rather than purely military struggle. The latter is only a concomitant of the responsibility of guerilla units for sowing the seeds of popular revolutionary movements, ^{and for} propagandizing and organizing them. Internally guerilla units must stabilize political education, harden the fighting spirit of their personnel, elevate their passion for struggle, and become an iron force of rare quality. Externally they should reinforce their propaganda influence among the masses, enlarge their revolutionary organization, expand the mass struggle, and aid the masses in their uprisings until the political power of traitors is overthrown and the political power of the people's government stabilized. Guerilla forces are the vanguards of the people's revolution, they, by means of their unlimited courage and resolution, continue and expand the tide of people's revolution until they have driven out the people's enemies, taken over the territory occupied by them, and consolidated the power of the nation throughout its territories. This chapter treats solely of the political activities of the guerilla units.

A. Internal Political Activities of Guerilla Forces.

1. The Important Phases of the Political Activities of Guerilla Forces.

In spite of the inferiority of the weapons of guerilla forces compared to those of the people's enemies, the thing in which they cannot be overcome is their revolutionary spirit and their will to fight.

Every guerilla is filled with a fire of enthusiasm and daring to fight for the people; he is ebullient with an unplaceable hatred of the people's enemies and unshakeable faith in final triumph. Every guerilla from the day of his induction is wholly dedicated to the sacred task of opposing imperialism. He longs to water the bright flowers of popular revolution with his own fresh blood and to recover the violated mountains and streams. For this reason it is impossible for the enemies of the people to overcome guerilla forces.

It is well known that the political and economic conflicts and the revolutionary movements within the aggressor country affects the thinking of their soldiers and daily heightens their discontent until they are increasingly despondent about their chances of victory. This especially is apparent among the traitorous Chinese forces under their control. Their latent discontent has developed into a cascading torrent of inner conflict that cannot be stemmed. This inner conflict arises from the fact that they are involved in an anti-revolutionary aggressive venture against a revolutionary people's force, no matter what methods the leaders of the aggressive forces use to check disintegration within their forces, such as divisive condition is inevitable and this condition grows in proportion to the length of time employed in the aggressive warfare. This discontent stems from revolutionary movements within the aggressor country, which cannot fail to spread among the rank and file of the army. In a people's revolutionary struggle, because it is a total war against the enemy, it not only avoids dissension among the people, but rather heals all dissensions. This spirit extends into the ranks of their troops greatly increasing the strength of their unity.

The success of guerilla warfare is based upon this unconquerable spirit; it is the pride of guerilla fighters, the most precious thing they possess. By means of this spiritual quality guerilla fighters can overcome all the exigencies of lack of material resources. Guerilla forces by increasing the extent of their political activities ^{many fold} ~~many fold~~ can raise their political confidence, strengthen their faith in victory, raise their esprit de corps, develop their willingness to sacrifice for the revolution, and defeat the enemy by making the best use of what material resources they do possess.

2. Organization of Political Work Among Guerilla Forces.

Political organization within guerilla units should be systematic; having strong purposeful leadership. Within a guerilla unit general headquarters and the larger independent guerilla units there should be definite political work organizations. For small units political advisors or special delegates may be assigned from the political work organizations of general headquarters. Persons thus appointed should be carefully screened and able to meet the following requirements:

- a. ^{He} ~~They~~ must be ^{an} all-out opponent of counter-revolutionaries and puppet traitors.
- b. He must have unshakeable faith in and clear knowledge of political work as well as analytical skill.
- c. He requires supreme confidence in the success of bravery and sacrifice in the cause of the revolutionary struggle.
- d. He must be able to endure privation, be physically vigorous, able to endure hunger and cold, and be unromantic.
- e. He requires at least basic military training and skills.
- f. He must be a leader.

Political workers should be chosen from the ranks of the guerilla fighters and given political training during periods when the forces are stationary in order to enlarge the number of political work personnel.

3. The Application of Political Work Training.

Leadership of guerilla political work training pertains to the political department or political advisor. A number of basic principles should be observed in planning and carrying out a course of political work training. They are, as follows:

- a. Take into account the political cultural level of the unit.
- b. Dovetail the training program into the campaign schedule.
- c. Lay out the central objective and program of each training period.
- d. The training should proceed as far as possible without interruption under all conditions.
- e. The program should be thoroughly planned, organized and inspected.

Methods of training must naturally coincide with the conditions of the unit as to size and battle situations. The following methods may be suggested.

- a. Literary training may be provided by preparation of training syllabi, publishing a unit newspaper, preparation of battle songs, etc. to enhance literacy.
- b. Oral training may be provided through interviews with comrades, inquiring into their home conditions, and daily living conditions, and by discussion of all sorts of problems.

c. Collective training may be provided by group singing, lecture periods, when battle conditions permit, short-term guerilla training classes, etc.

d. Political work under fighting conditions involves periods of bivouac, when on the march, and under actual combat conditions.

Being able to carry on work under these conditions is the result of training in less strenuous seasons. Political work activity during active campaigning involves the following important points:

a. When a guerilla force is in bivouac the important political activity is to maintain quiet and restfulness to strengthen and elevate the fighting spirit of the men, also to carry on political education. The special phases of work under these conditions are inspirational, educational, and recreational.

b. When a guerilla unit is on the march the chief political work responsibility is elevating the fighting spirit, maintenance of discipline, alertness, and alleviation of hardship. The specialty of political work at this time is arousement and the imparting of high morale.

c. When a guerilla unit is in combat the chief duty of political workers is to raise the fighting morale to the highest possible pitch and use all possible propaganda means to counteract the enemies' activities.

d. When a guerilla force is retiring the duty of the political work unit is to preserve and raise the fighting spirit, maintain discipline, rectify all tendencies to lackadaisical attitudes and disorder, see that the retirement proceeds according to plan and efficiently. The unit should also strive to strengthen its political influence among the masses.

B. Guerilla Propaganda Among the Masses.

Guerilla forces are propagandists among the masses. Their success in securing the support of the masses depends upon whether the principles they advance meet the people's demands, and whether they can carry on the struggle of the masses and represent their interests. Guerilla units must, therefore, make use of every possible avenue of propaganda. The following are some of the points they should observe.

1. They should put forth certain propaganda slogans that meet the people's most urgent requirements such as: "Oppose forcible enemy occupation of the people's homes," "Oppose enemy confiscation of land," "Oppose forcible planting of cotton," "Oppose the enemy's manpower draft," "Oppose enemy labor drafts and forced service outside local areas," "Oppose use of white flour," "Confiscate traitor property," "Overthrow the traitorous government and establish the people's political power," "Expand the people's revolutionary struggle to protect China," etc. In short, in setting up a propaganda program, local conditions should be taken into account, the extent of the enemy's oppression, and the desires of the people and the most suitable slogans devised and publicized. At the same time it should be observed that the people's desires are not static; they change with the stage of expansion of the mass struggle, and propaganda programs should be set up with this in view. Only as the guerilla propaganda coincides with the program of the people's demands can it have a strong effect upon them and secure their support.

2. After choosing an appropriate list of propaganda slogans every effort should be made to make these slogans effective. Certain methods are suggested below:

a. Use propaganda speeches, leaflets, signboards, slogans, proclamations, songs, wall newspapers, printed newspapers, periodicals, books, etc. Have them scattered everywhere. The literary structure of these media should be such as the people will readily comprehend.

b. Art and motion pictures, drawings, carvings, and plays are all very effective and should be employed to full capacity.

c. Mass singing is proving a very useful tonic to brace the spirits of the people. Guerilla units should learn to sing numbers of spirited songs, not only for their own morale, but to increase the people's revolutionary spirit.

d. Guerilla units should send out political agents to gather the people together for lectures, using plain, stimulating language in colloquial style, presenting ideas actually representing the people's interests. This will have a powerful effect upon them.

e. The use of skits involving impersonation in local patterns is effective.

3. Action Propaganda.

Even though the strategy of a guerilla force may not require the occupation of an enemy-held area, a raid accompanied by suitable propaganda will do much to uphold the morale of the people under enemy occupation.

C. The Organization of the Masses by Guerilla Forces.

When guerilla propaganda has attained a sufficient influence among the masses its effect should be clinched by organization of the people to revive the national authority and establish a base for local government and for continued expansion of the revolutionary movement. In setting up such a mass organization care should be taken that it will really

contribute to the progress of guerilla activity. The steps in such organizational activity are:

1. Organization of Armed Partisans.

Large numbers from the masses should first be enrolled in the guerilla units. Such enrollment should be made to appear as a glorious course to follow. All sorts of titles, methods, and arms, should be used to set up such organizations as volunteers, self-defense forces, traitor extermination corps, etc.

2. Organization of People's Reserves.

Facilities should be set up to organize the masses into reserve units, comforting units, stretcher units, etc. Women and children should be mobilized in these organizations to render glorious service to the guerillas.

3. Masses' Self-defense Organizations.

The masses may be organized into guard units, spy units, messenger units, intelligence and demolition units, etc.

4. Other Popular National Salvation Organizations.

National salvation associations, theatrical units, song units and other cultural organizations may be set up. In setting up mass organizations the following principles should be observed:

a. If these organizations are in occupied territory a distinction should be made between covert and overt activity liaison. In other words, overt opportunities should be used to set up covert organizations.

b. When an area is under guerilla occupation people's organizations may be set up on a grand scale with a view to establishing a people's revolutionary base.

c. It is not necessary to cast all organizations in the same pattern, the people's ideas should be followed in the various organizations. There should be no close or exclusive organizations in the inner circles; everything should be open to all.

d. Very careful attention should be paid to detection of Chinese traitors and imperialist agents. When discovered they may be turned over to the guerilla command for disposal of their cases.

D. Guerilla Unit Political Work When in the Midst of Armed Enemy Partisans.

There is a great advantage in political work among enemy units to break down their morale, especially among the Chinese puppet troops employed by the enemy. The growing revolutionary movement among the people is bound to affect the minds of these forces and the political work of guerilla forces among them is to further this disaffection until it leads to open revolt. This type of work is highly important to the development of guerilla activities and progress of the people's revolution. It is comparatively easy for guerillas to carry on because the aggressor's command is divided in its counsels; the rank and file is bound to be discouraged at the slowness of their progress. The growing economic distress of the aggressor's own government and the growing tide of revolution, the result of steady opposition to aggressive policies can bring about a drop in morale among the enemy's regular forces and sympathy with the great popular liberation struggle. Secondly, the aggressor enemy's troops are mobilized not only from his own oppressed laboring and peasant classes, but also contain a large number of colonial forces from Korea and Taiwan. The people from among the masses of overthrown countries who suffer oppression and indignities will be easily disaffected

by revolutionary influences. Thirdly, with the exception of some voluntary running dog traitors in the higher echelons, the puppet forces of the enemy are principally made up of those frightened or inveigled into being cannon fodder in the struggle against their own people. These forces, if our political workers play their cards right, cannot only be won away from the enemy cause, but can also be actively enlisted in the cause of the National revolution. This is well illustrated by the defection of Ch'a Huan's (蔡 汉 英) puppet troops. However, such occurrences will make the enemy command ~~will~~ take severely repressive measures to prevent disaffection among their own troops, thus making our political activity among them both arduous and perilous. In carrying out such work the following points need to be observed:

1. A guerilla unit should by investigation have a good knowledge of the enemy's table of organization, training, discipline, treatment of personnel, living conditions of rank and file, garrison locations, etc.; especially should their possible points of disaffection and dissatisfaction be known.

2. Larger guerilla units should have an enemy force political work section under the political department, or an independent enemy troop agitation committee and should send bold and trustworthy agents to work among enemy forces. Their plan of activities should be coordinated with the combat plans of the guerilla forces employing them.

3. The persons employed in such activity should have the ability to act independently without developing any cross purposes that would lead to their discovery and surveillance by the enemy command.

4. In the neighborhood of enemy camps, particularly enemy puppet camps, the population should be mobilized into groups to scatter propaganda leaflets and slogans urging them to demand better treatment, to organize defection on the basis that Chinese should not fight Chinese, but should join the forces protecting the country.

5. In time of combat such slogans as "Don't be a traitor," "Don't fight your Chinese countrymen," "Don't be slaves of Japanese aggression," "Chinese, unite to resist Japanese aggression," etc. should be spread among the enemy to bring about disaffection and sap his fighting spirit.

6. Captured puppet prisoners should be indoctrinated against being traitors and running dogs for Japanese imperialism. After a short period of indoctrination those who appear to be trustworthy should be released to go back to their units to propagandize them.

7. When enemy troops defect and come over to join our guerillas in the common conflict they should be ostentatiously welcomed to allay any fears they may have and to raise their fighting spirit in their new role as protectors of the fatherland.

E. Guerilla Unit Political Activity in the Midst of Local Upheavals.

The subject of local uprisings and street fighting is treated at length in a later chapter. At this point it is desired only to point out an important responsibility of guerilla units, namely to support such uprisings in overthrowing traitorous authorities and restoring national authority. What then is the responsibility of political workers in such times?

1. All activities should be centered on restoring national authority and organizing local governments. At this point, guerilla forces should exert their best efforts to publicize the crimes of traitorous authorities

and portray the virtues of the new authorities, calling upon the people to overthrow the puppets of Japan and restore the countryside to the national rule of the Chinese Republic.

2. Any uprising should be carefully planned with a solid political mobilization program so as to raise the people's fighting spirit and to assure carrying the uprising to completion.

3. It is very important in promoting an uprising to get definite intelligence on all Chinese traitors. When the uprising takes place all the important ones among these should be immediately shot.

4. It is the responsibility of guerilla political workers in an uprising to rouse the people's fighting enthusiasm to the highest pitch, while at the same time maintaining their discipline.

5. When an uprising is over it is the responsibility of the guerilla political workers to mobilize the masses and call a mass meeting to restore local government on behalf of the Chinese Republic and establish local officials. A regular proclamation should be issued as follows, "The strength of the people's struggle in [blank] has resulted in the overthrow of the Japanese and puppet authority and the return of the authority of the Chinese Republic and on [blank] date at a meeting of the people (or the people's delegates) a local government was set up. Henceforth, all armed forces should continue to expand the national revolutionary struggle to secure the return of all lost territories to China and throw out the Japanese imperialists."

6. After the restoration of Chinese authority and the establishment of local government by means of an uprising, guerilla political activities should be diverted to solidification of the political base of the local government's authority, amplification of political mobilization, and expansion of the revolutionary struggle.